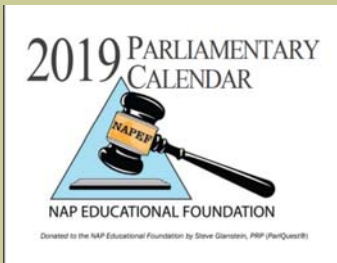


The Florida Parliamentarian

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ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY 17-19-CALL TO MEETING

Register now for the annual meeting in May. We're going back to the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Brandon, FL. If you've been before, you know about the delicious lunch. Tim Wynn has planned an excellent round of workshops. FSAP will hold elections since this is an odd-numbered year. Finally, we'll amend bylaws. Registration forms are online and in this issue.

April is Parliamentary Law Month

If your unit plans activities for Parliamentary Law month, we'd like to hear about it. Send your ideas and events to Ann Guiberson at aguiberson@gmail.com.

The Parliamentary Law Month proclamation is available to customize for your unit. Access it in the Member Portal on the website.

<http://www.flparliamentarian.com/member-portal/>

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Explore NAP

NAP is testing a new mobile app, featuring quizzes, a vote calculator, and more. If you are interested in helping to test it, download the app:

iOS device: <http://bit.ly/NAPIOSapp>

Android: <http://bit.ly/NAPAndroidApp>

After you try it out, complete a survey evaluating the app on the NAP website.

The 42nd biennial convention is in Las Vegas this year on September 5-8. Plan to attend and plan to take part in the NAP Education Foundation's outing—a dinner cruise on Lake Mead. The convention will feature learning labs in presiding, serving as parliamentarian, and serving as secretary.

Presidentially Speaking...



I've been impressed this past year with the number of people in Florida who have requested parliamentary training sessions for their clubs and associations and with the number of participants who have then decided to join our units as provisional members. Many of those provisional members have already taken or are planning to take their NAP membership exams to become regular members. I've also seen an increase in the number of RPs, three of whom were introduced at our fall 2018 FSAP meeting. Those three and two additional FSAP members registered for the PQC that Ann Guiberson taught this past February.

Earning NAP membership and then moving on to earn one's RP and finally one's PRP credentials are major steps toward becoming a great parliamentarian, but they are just the first milestones on the long journey. For me, earning these credentials was as exciting as earning my pilot's license—a lot of hard work culminating in an exhilarating sense of "I made it!" But, then, my wise flight instructor brought me back to earth by saying, "This is just your license to learn."

The easiest way to learn is to read and listen. From the lessons that are taught at every unit, state association, and NAP meeting to the webinars NAP offers to the wealth of material published by NAP and our state newsletters, we have a wealth of material for lifelong learning.

A second and a most rewarding way to learn is to get a mentor and to be a mentor. I once asked my mentor, "Why are things so much clearer to you than they are to me?" She replied, "Experience. I've been doing this a lot longer than you have." Part of what made her a great parliamentarian was her willingness to be a mentor. Mentors are challenged to learn through careful research and through constantly thinking of examples that will enable them to explain and illustrate the rules so clearly that even a novice can understand them.

Third, there is no substitute for the learning one can acquire from serving on a committee or a board, or as a secretary or parliamentarian or president of an organization. During this nomination and election period of NAP's biennial cycle, I urge you to seize the opportunity to learn through practice. Contact your unit nominating committee and Pat Patterson (patpatterson@earthlink.net), chair of our FSAP nominating committee, and volunteer or recommend a colleague for nomination to be a unit or state association officer. Tell your unit and state delegates to the NAP convention of your interest in becoming active at the national level or recommend other FSAP members who are ready to be national leaders.

It is only through reading and listening, through having and being a mentor, and through actively practicing parliamentary procedure that one can move from being a novice parliamentarian, to being a good one to being a great one. What is your next step along the way?

*Helen Popovich PRP
President*

Welcome New Members and Directory Update

NEW STUDENT MEMBERS:

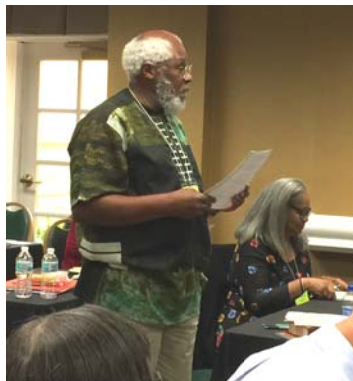
Easton K. Harrison 3341 NW 4ThTenace Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319 Cell: 407-431-5865 E-mail: eastonkh@gmail.com, Broward-Palm Beach PLU

NEW PROVISIONAL MEMBERS:

Karin D'Amico, 5506 Terrain de Golf Dr., Lutz, FL 33558; 813-786-8461, meharley2@aol.com, Florida Alpha

The directory is found on [the FSAP website](#). To access the directory, select Member Portal under Membership at the top of the home page. Or use this link: [FSAP Member Portal](#) The password is fsap.

The directory will be updated in April. Please be sure to review your listing and your unit information.



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DEADLINES FOR COPY

March issue	February 1
June issue	May 1
September issue	August 1
December issue	November 1

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All page numbers are references to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 11th ed., unless otherwise noted. Send questions to the Associate Editor, Carol Austin, PRP.



Question 1:

Can a Nominating Committee present more than one candidate for office?

Answer:

Although it is not common for the Nominating Committee to nominate more than one candidate for any office, the committee can do so unless the bylaws prohibit it. It is usually *not* sound to require the committee to nominate more than one candidate for each office since the committee, can easily circumvent such a provision by nominating only one person who has any chance of being elected. (RONR, P. 433, ll. 21-28)

If it is desired to impose such a limitation, the provision should state that the committee shall nominate "a candidate for each office." (RONR P. 573, ll. 16,17-18)

Question 2:

A special committee was appointed last month to investigate a merger with another organization, but the committee has produced no report because its widely dispersed members are having difficulty getting together. At a meeting of the assembly, a member makes the motion "that the special committee be instructed to meet by telephone and to report at the next meeting. The chair declares the motion adopted after a vote in the affirmative. Is this proper?

Answer:

Yes. After a question has been referred to a committee and at any time before the committee submits its report, even at another session, the assembly by a majority vote can give the committee additional instructions in reference to the referred question. (RONR P. 177, ll. 13-17)

Even though this committee was not established in the bylaws and is a special committee, a motion instructing the committee to meet by telephone is in order and still requires only a majority vote. (RONR P. 98, ll. 21-28)

Question 3:

When the words "duly elected and installed" are used in the organization's bylaws,
 (a) does that mean that it is necessary then to have installation exercises?
 (b) or can the officers assume their duties without any special installing?

Answer:

(a) No, unless there is a rule or custom prescribing a form of installation.

(b) If a formal installation ceremony is prescribed, failure to hold it does not affect the time at which the new officers assume office. (RONR P. 444, ll. 30-32)

EDUCATION, WORKSHOPS, AND MORE FEATURED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Education Chairman, Tim Wynn, PRP announces the following workshops to be presented at the FSAP annual meeting on May 18, 2019



Is it in Order? Presented by Jason Abellada, PRP

Do you know when a motion is in order? There are a few less common and less known rules that might trip you up. Learn how to deal with these unusual occurrences by using real-life and hypothetical situations in this interactive workshop.



Parliamentary Games with game host, Linda Laurendeau.

Who says parliamentary procedure is not fun? This latest iteration of Parliamentary Games will sharpen up your parliamentary knowledge while just being great fun.



Answering Parliamentary Questions and Writing Parliamentary Opinions. Presented by Tim Wynn, PRP

All parliamentarians, whether registered or not, get asked questions about parliamentary rules. Are you ready with clear and accurate responses to these questions? This program will guide you to confidently answer parliamentary questions of all shapes and sizes, whether asked from the chair, the floor of the assembly, or commissioned as a formal written parliamentary opinion. We'll examine effective techniques to ensure efficient and accurate responses.



Registered Section Sunday Special

Teaching with PowerPoint™ Presented by Henry Lawton, RP

Learn how to use this great presentation tool to enhance your lessons.

All members are invited to attend this workshop.

How a Table Changes its Shape as it Crosses the Ocean

For Americans trying to follow the twists and turns of the U.K.'s plans to leave the European Union, the political maneuvering can get confusing. But a seemingly simple word from British political parlance may be the most mystifying to observers in the US: "table."

Last December the British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn "tabled a motion of no confidence" in Prime Minister Theresa May, after Mrs. May announced that she was delaying the vote to approve her Brexit deal. "Tabling" a motion in British usage means that it has been presented for formal deliberation. But for Americans, it means the exact opposite: postponing the consideration of a measure for an indeterminate amount of time. How did British and American parliamentary procedure end up with such different meanings of the same basic term?

The political usage of "tabling" goes back to the tumultuous days of the English Civil War in the mid-17th century. Royalists and parliamentarians battled over the country's method of governance, followed by Oliver Cromwell's assumption of power. Cromwell temporarily abolished the monarchy and the upper house of Parliament, known as the House of Lords, leaving the House of Commons as the sole governing body.

Under the rules of the time, a petition or other proposal submitted for deliberation in the House of Commons had to be "laid upon the table," meaning that a copy of the document had to be placed on an actual table, known as the Table of the House. One member of Parliament, Thomas Burton, kept an extensive diary, including an entry in 1656 in which he recounted that "divers petitions were cast upon the table in a very confused way."

After a proposal was ceremonially laid upon the table, however, it might not be immediately acted upon. Then it could be said to "lie upon the table," put aside for discussion until some later date. From the start, then, the parliamentary "table" was seen as serving a dual purpose, for initiating formal action or postponing it.

That dual meaning continued as "table" lost its literal application and transformed into a verb. In Britain and in many English-speaking regions of the world, "tabling" came to refer to putting forth an official submission for consideration, like Mr. Corbyn's tabling of the no-confidence motion.

The verb took a different trajectory in the U.S., however, drawing on the image of a document lying on a table awaiting further action. The earliest example of this usage given by the Oxford English

To Table: Is it on or is it off?



Dictionary appeared in a Whig Party almanac published in 1849: “Senator Westcott tried to table the bill, but failed: it became law.”

As used in the U.S. Congress, a “motion to table” came to refer to an attempt to kill a piece of legislation entirely by ending any further debate on it. Perhaps mindful of the potential double meaning, congressional record-keepers often put “kill” in parentheses after “motion to table.”

For ordinary societies, *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 11th edition says, “The motion to *Lay on the Table* enables the assembly to lay the pending question aside temporarily when something else of immediate urgency has arisen or when something else needs to be addressed before consideration of the pending question is resumed, in such a way that:

- 1) there is *no set time* for taking the matter up again;
- 2) But, its consideration *can be resumed at the will of a majority* and in preference to any new question that may then be competing with it for consideration. “

RONR also says this motion is frequently misused as a motion to postpone indefinitely or to postpone to a certain time. In these cases it is often known as a motion “to table.”

During WWII, a story is told that at a meeting of allied commanders, somebody said that a controversial idea was to be laid on the table. The British thought that it would finally be discussed and decided; the Americans thought it would not be discussed and was therefore rejected. This supposedly led Churchill to say that Great Britain and the United States were two nations divided by a common language.

Thus the two different interpretations of “table” have been officially enshrined into parliamentary procedure on either side of the Atlantic. “Table” joins other words or expressions that encompass two opposing meanings—such as “sanction,” which can mean either “penalize” or “approve.”

Notice of Amendment to the FSAP Bylaws

Notice is hereby given of proposed amendments recommended by the Executive Committee of the Registered Section to the FSAP bylaws to be presented at the Annual Meeting in Brandon, FL on May 18, 2019, as follows: New language is double underscored

Amendments #1 and #2

1. Amend Article IV, 3, C, 3, by adding “in odd-numbered years.”
2. Amend Article IV, 3, C, 3 by adding “or until their successors are elected.”

Current Language	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
3. election of an Executive Committee consisting of a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary.	3. election of an Executive Committee consisting of a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary <u>in odd-numbered years.</u>	3. election of an Executive Committee consisting of a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary in odd-numbered years.
The term of office for members of the Executive Committee shall be two years.	The term of office for members of the Executive Committee shall be two years <u>or until their successors are elected.</u>	The term of office for members of the Executive Committee shall be two years or until their successors are elected.

Rationale: Since the Registered Section was established in 2018, the current wording of this section causes the Executive Committee to be elected in even-numbered years, which is opposite of the FSAP elections. This amendment would allow the election of the Registered Section Executive Committee to take place on the same schedule as FSAP Officers and be consistent with the wording of FSAP Officers’ term of appointment.

Amendment #3

Amend Article IV, 3, D, by inserting new paragraph 4 with the following wording and renumbering the remaining paragraphs: “4. in the event of a vacancy in the Executive Committee, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall appoint a member of the Registered Section to fill the remainder of the vacated term.”

Current Language	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	4. <u>in the event of a vacancy in the Executive Committee, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall appoint a member of the Registered Section to fill the remainder of the vacated term.</u>	4. in the event of a vacancy in the Executive Committee, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall appoint a member of the Registered Section to fill the remainder of the vacated term.

Rationale: To create a procedure to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee.

The Chair's Vote

Have you ever seen provisions in bylaws that state: "The chair shall vote only in the case of a tie." Or perhaps you have encountered a parliamentary "expert" who says, "The chair doesn't vote unless there is a tie." Is this true? This notion may stem from the fact that we know the chair is supposed to be impartial. A chair who expresses opinion or shows a bias during consideration of a question may cause trouble in the form of resentment or even hostility from members with an opposing view. Certainly that imperils civil discourse!

It is also true that if presiding officers are a member of the voting body, they have exactly the same rights and privileges as all other members including the right to vote unless the bylaws restrict that right as noted above. Due to a desire to protect impartiality, the chair usually refrains from voting. So, just when can a chair vote?

Let's consider the following exceptions to the need to refrain from voting:

Exception 1: In meetings of a small board (twelve or fewer members), and in committee meetings, the presiding officer may vote as fully as any other member. In condo boards and homeowners' associations, the chair may be elected as any other member and then elected to serve as chair by the board. In many instances, he is required to vote.

In large assemblies, however, it is very important to demonstrate impartiality by refraining from voting even without restrictions in the bylaws.

Exception 2: The chair may vote when the vote is by ballot. Since ballot votes are usually not disclosed, the chair's partiality is protected. The chair should always be able to vote in this case.

Exception 3: Chairs may vote whenever their vote will affect the result.

When will the chair's vote affect the result? If a majority vote is required and there is a tie, the chair may vote in the affirmative to cause the motion to be adopted. If there is one more in the affirmative than in the negative, the chair can create a tie by voting in the negative to cause the motion to be lost. Similarly, if a two-thirds vote is required, the chair may vote either to cause, or to block, reaching the necessary two thirds.

So, it is a fallacy to say that the chair can only vote in case of tie, unless restricted by rule or bylaws. The correct statement is chairs can vote by ballot or when their vote would affect the result. Further, it is not good practice to enshrine this misconception in bylaws as it would prevent the chair from voting by ballot.

[[RONR](#) (11th ed.), pp. 405-6; see also Table A, p. 190 of [RONR In Brief](#).]

Parliamentary Lesson: How Should the Chair Respond?

Read the scenarios below and answer the question. Find the citation in RONR that supports your answer.



1. A motion to have a party is pending and chair says, "Is there any further debate? If not, we will now vote. The motion is "That we have a party on the Fourth of July, to be arranged by the Event Committee. A member interrupts, "Madam President!" How should the chair respond?
2. A member makes a motion, but no one immediately seconds it. Another member says, "Mr. Chair, I rise to suggest a modification." The chair calls on the member, who says, "I suggest that the proposer add the words, "at a cost not to exceed \$800," and the proposer of the motion immediately says, "Mr. Chair, I accept the modification." What should the chair then say?
3. At a meeting of 500 members, a controversial motion is voted on by voice, but the chair cannot judge which side is louder. What should the chair do?
4. While a main motion is pending, a motion "To limit debate to 10 more minutes" is adopted. When the time expires, an amendment is pending, and someone has the floor and is debating the amendment. The chair would like to bring the main motion to a vote without further delay. What should the chair do?
5. At 11:30 am, a main motion is pending, but the assembly is having difficulty amending it into an acceptable form. A member obtains the floor and says, "I move to refer to a committee of 5 appointed by the chair, with instructions to report immediately after lunch." The motion to refer is adopted. After lunch, what does the chair say to get the meeting going again?
6. A main motion and a pending amendment are referred to a committee. When the committee reports, its chair reads the report, recommending that the pending amendment NOT be adopted, but that a certain new amendment be adopted and that the main motion be adopted as amended. What should the chair say then?
7. In the morning, while a main motion is pending, a motion "That we postpone this question until 2:00 pm," is adopted. Later, at 2:00 pm, another motion is being debated. How should the chair get the postponed motion taken up again?

Answers may be found on the website on the [Publications Page](#)

FSAP ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM



FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

Annual Meeting

Embassy Suites, 10220 Palm River Road, Brandon, FL

May 17-19, 2019

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(Street)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

PHONE _____ CELL _____ EMAIL _____

UNIT _____ MAL _____ MEMBER _____ GUEST _____

FSAP Office/Chairmanship Held _____

Unit Office/Chairmanship Held _____

NAP/District III Office/Chairmanship Held _____

REGISTRATION FEE: Includes Saturday Lunch, all day beverages \$79 _____

STUDENT REGISTRATION FEE: \$40 _____

GUEST LUNCH: \$40 _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Pease select your lunch choice:

- Roaster Herb Chicken
- Bourbon Glazed Sirloin
- I need a vegan or vegetarian meal

Special Dietary Needs _____

Payment: Make check payable to FSAP and mail to:

Kay Stephens, 2946 Golden View Lane, Orlando, FL 32812-5984

Email: stephensmk@bellsouth.net

Telephone: 407-658-9779

Deadline to register by mail: May 10, 2019



**EMBASSY SUITES
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10220 Palm River Road
Brandon, Florida 33619
Phone: 813-413-3907
May 17-19, 2019**

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

(Telephone or mail directly to hotel. Please print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(Street)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

PHONE _____ CELL _____ EMAIL _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

ROOM RATE: \$119.00 per night plus applicable state and local taxes.

(All rooms are suites, hot breakfast and afternoon reception is included)

GUARANTEE: Submit one night's deposit or fill out the following information:

American Express _____ Discover _____ Master Card _____ Visa _____

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Deadline for room rate guarantee April 26, 2019

Group Code: **FAP**

Reservation online: <http://bit.ly/2019FSAPAnnual>